MARKED VERSION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after line 1 (the title), insert, - - This application is a continuation of PCT/SE00/00821, filed April 28, 2000, which claims priority of European Patent Application No. 99850074.8, filed May 4, 1999, U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/132,359, filed May 4, 1999, Swedish Patent Application No. 9901687-5, filed May 6, 1999, European Patent Application No. 99850160.5, filed October 29, 1999 and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/162,445, filed October 29, 1999.- -

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows, cancel claims 2-21 without prejudice and add new claims 22-40:

1. (Amended) [Aqueous] An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, [characterized in that it has] which sol has:

(i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%[,];

(ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP; and

(iii) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O, where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and

(iv) the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to 725 m^2/g.

- -22. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the S-value is within the range of from 20 to 40%.

23. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O, where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 15:1 to 30:1.

24. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has pH of at least 10.6.

25. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a viscosity within the range of from 7 to 25 cP.

26. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of Al_2O_3 to SiO_2 within the range of from 1:4 to 1:1500.

27. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of B, where B is boron, to SiO_2 within the range of from 1:4 to 1:1500.

28. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 1, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of Al to B, where B is boron, within the range of from 100:1 to 1:100.

29. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
(i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
(ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP; and
(iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight; and
(iv) the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to 725 m^2/g.

30. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the S-value is within the range of from 20 to 40%.

31. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a pH of at least 10.6.

32. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a silica content within the range of from 12 to 20% by weight.

33. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a viscosity within the range of from 7 to 25 cP.

34. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 29, wherein the sol has a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O, where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1.

35. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
(i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
(ii) a viscosity within the range of from 7 to 25 cP;
(iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight;
(iv) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O, where M is alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and
(v) a pH of at least 10.6.

36. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area of at least $300m^2/g$ up to 1050 m^2/g.

37. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 775 to 1050 m^2/g.

38. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 35, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area within the range of from 550 to 725 m^2/g.

39. (New) An aqueous sol containing silica-based particles, which sol has:
(i) an S-value within the range of from 10 to 45%;
(ii) a viscosity within the range of from 5 to 40 cP;
(iii) a silica content of at least 10% by weight;
(iv) a molar ratio of SiO_2 to M_2O, where M being alkali metal or ammonium, within the range of from 10:1 to 40:1; and
(v) the sol is modified by an aluminium-containing compound, a boron-containing compound or a mixture thereof.

40. (New) The aqueous sol according to claim 39, wherein the silica-based particles have a specific surface area of at least $300m^2/g$ up to 1050 m^2/g.- -